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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon, and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. THURMOND].

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie, offered the following prayer:

Oh God of hope, who inspires in us authentic hope in You, we thank You for the incredible happiness we feel when we trust You completely. The expectation of Your timely interventions to help us gives us stability and serenity. It makes us bold and courageous, fearless and free. We agree with the psalmist, "Happy is he * * * whose hope is in the Lord his God"—Psalm 146:5.

You have shown us that authentic hope always is rooted in Your faithfulness in keeping Your promises. We hear Your assurance, "Be not afraid, I am with you." We place our hope in Your problem-solving power, Your conflict-resolving presence, and Your anxiety-dissolving peace.

Father, the Senators and all who work with them face a busy week filled with challenges and opportunities. Important decisions must be made, an amendment to the Constitution considered, a crucial meeting of the leaders of the Congress with the President and the Vice President held. And in it all, we have a vibrant hope that You will inspire the spirit of patriotism that overcomes party spirit and the humility that makes possible dynamic unity. Give us hope for a truly great week of progress. In the name of our Lord and Savior. Amen.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The able acting majority leader, Senator NICKLES, is recognized.

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, thank you.

THE CHAPLAIN'S PRAYER

Mr. NICKLES. I wish to thank the Chaplain again for a beautiful prayer. As always, he is very eloquent, very inspirational, and I think it would certainly behoove all of us to pay tribute and guidance to his lesson this morning.

SCHEDULE

Mr. NICKLES. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 o'clock this afternoon. At 1 o'clock, the Senate will resume consideration of Senate Joint Resolution 1, the constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget. By unanimous consent, Senator WELLSTONE will be recognized to offer an amendment or two at 1 p.m. We hope to be able to complete all debate on Senator WELLSTONE's amendments today. However, any votes ordered on those amendments will occur during Tuesday's session.

Beginning at 3:30 today, the Senate will resume 2 hours of debate on Senator DURBIN's amendment regarding economic hardship. Under the order, a vote will occur on or in relation to the Durbin amendment at 5:30 this afternoon. I want to repeat that there will be a rollcall vote at 5:30 this afternoon. I also remind my colleagues that the Senate is scheduled to adjourn for the President's Day recess on Thursday of this week. In addition, tomorrow President Clinton is coming to the Capitol for a meeting, and also for Senators' information, the funeral for Ambassador Harriman is scheduled for Thursday. Therefore, this week will be busy as we continue to make progress on the balanced budget amendment and consider any nominations that may become available.

I might mention that it is possible we could have a vote on the U.S. Trade Representative this week, and it's even possible on Congressman RICHARDSON, who is up for U.N. Representative. As

always, we will try to keep all Senators advised on the schedule for the remainder of the week, as well as any ordered rollcall votes. There is a vote this evening at 5:30 in relation to the Durbin amendment.

I thank my colleagues and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BURNS). The time now being controlled is controlled by the Democratic leader or his designee.

Mr. CONRAD addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CONRAD. I yield myself the time of the Democratic leader. If the Chair will alert me at the end of 15 minutes, I will appreciate that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. I will do so.

THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PLAN

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, the President of the United States has now submitted his budget, a plan that extends for 5 years, a plan that continues us on the path of deficit reduction, a plan that will continue to reduce the role of the Federal Government in the life of the country, but one that will emphasize the priorities that he stressed in the most recent campaign—an emphasis on improving educational opportunity in the United States, a desire to preserve the important priorities of caring for our senior citizens through the Medicare Program, of also preserving the social safety net, and at the same time reforming the welfare program to provide that people who are in need of assistance go to work, where possible. All of these are contained in the President's latest budget submission.

I have heard a fair amount of criticism from various circles about various elements of the President's plan. I think it's appropriate to respond to those criticisms so that people who are

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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